

REMARKS

Claims 11-20 are pending in this application. New claim 20 has been added.

Claims 11 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,452,174) ("Hirose"). Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirose. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicants note that the rejection of claims 11-17 is premised upon Hirose. Pursuant to MPEP §§ 706.02(v) and 1893.03(b), Hirose is not a valid 35 U.S.C. § 102 reference. The April 27, 2000 filing date of Hirose is not prior to the earliest filing date of the present application, that is, February 25, 2000. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 11-17 is respectfully requested.

Allowance of all pending claims is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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